

Reconsideration of the above identified patent application is hereby respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, and 7-10 remain in the case for consideration.

1. The Election and withdrawal of claims 11 and 15-18 is noted.

2. The acceptability of the informal drawings for examination purposes is noted and appreciated.

3. Claim objections for claims 1, 5, and 7 are noted. All recitation in claim 1 has been amended to refer to a "flexible hose", as requested using proper antecedent basis as required.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1 (claim 2 has been canceled).

Claim 7 has been amended to recite "venting" instead of urging.

Thank you for all of the helpful suggestions.
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

10. After further consideration, the applicant has decided not to revive the related application. Accordingly, the first paragraph after the title has been amended to recite that the related application is now abandoned, not pending. Other amendments (i.e., to claim 8) correct claim dependency.

All opportunity to contact the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, followed by the date "Feb 27, 2004".

Risto A. Rinne, Jr.
Reg. # 37,055

2173 East Francisco Blvd.
Suite E
San Rafael, CA 94901
1-415-457-6933